

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved.

From Thursday, December 10. to Saturday, December 12. 1713.

THE Treaty of Commerce with Spain is now Sign'd: The *MERCATOR* has been endeavouring to shew the Impotence of those popular Objections, which have been raised against it, before it appears, by a Set of People among us, who will have any thing ill done, when they think fit to dislike the Hands, who did it.

But the Clamours against it have appeared to be Forged, those, who have published them, *One excepted, who never Blushes*, have acknowledged them so; and the Signing the Treaty since that Time, proves, they, who published those Clamours, were Imposed upon grossly.

But waving this scandalous Step, which is but a small thing with these Men; the *MERCATOR* comes back to speak of the Absurdity of that Notion, which so much Weight is now laid upon, viz. That the French will Influence the Spanish Trade so, as to get it from us into their own Hands.

The *MERCATOR* has proved, and, he believes, it is beyond Contradiction, he would say he was sure of it, if the Men, he has to do with had Reason or Honesty; That the French can neither supply the Spaniards with Manufactures, nor take off the Produce of their Countries: Which way then they can Influence the Spaniards to our prejudice in Trade, is the Riddle they are to expound?

That the French cannot take off the Spanish Goods, such as Wine, Oil, Fruit, Salt, Wooll, was shew'd in this Particular, (viz.) That in the time of the last War, the Spaniards were obliged to try all possible ways to bring us to Trade with them, and to take off their Goods, which the French could not.

If the People, we have to do with, had either Honesty or Reason, they would own the Truth of what is so well known; but, as was said before, it is their way to GRANT Nothing, and CAVIL at every Thing: The Design is plain, it is not needful to them to have Truth Debated and Discovered, but to have the *MERCATOR* Clamour'd at; and therefore every thing offered in this Paper must be equally False, equally Villainous, equally Absurd.

Nay, to such a degree of Front are these Men come, they can now affirm, that Dunkirk and Marseilles are not in France, as to Trade; and being free Ports, the Goods carried to those Places are not to be reckoned carried to France, they are only Store-houses, where our Goods are to be laid up, and carried away again; indeed, they forgot to tell us whither: But this is not to the Subject we are now upon; and we have it so handsomely Exposed in a Letter from an Ingenious, but unknown Hand, which shall be published in the next *MERCATOR*, that no more shall be said to it now.

To return then to the Spanish Trade: The *MERCATOR* sees no Reason, why he may not advance a Foundation to Argue from, which, it is believed, shall be proved against all Opposers, (viz.)

1. That both by the Treaties of Peace, and by the Treaties of Commerce with France and with Spain, our Trade to Spain is so settled and secured, that the French cannot, have not the least Advantage against us

in the Spanish Trade, more than they had before the first War began.

2. That, on the contrary, we have several considerable Advantages by the said Treaties, which we had not before, and which neither the French, Dutch, or any other Nation but the British, are allowed.

If this be proved by the *MERCATOR*, then there can be no room for any Writers to Object against the Treaty, or any reason to Quarrel at the Writing these things, in the just Defence of such a Transaction.

The Commerce of Spain, not only with Britain but with France, is, by the late Treaty between Britain and France, agreed to be left upon the same Foot, as it was in the time of King Charles II. of Spain: *Vid. the Treaty of Peace*. The Conditions which the Spanish Trade was in at the time of Charles II. and which is understood by that Article, is, that no European Power whatsoever shall be permitted to Trade to the Spanish West-Indies but the Spaniards, but that all Nations shall freely and equally bring their Goods to Old Spain, which must, if shipped on board the Galleons for America, be Consign'd in the Names, and for the Account of Native Spaniards, &c.

To prevent any Inequality or unjust Preferences in the Markets and Ports of Old Spain, to the prejudice of Britain, or in favour of the French, a new Treaty of Commerce is settled, in which the Duties and Customs to be paid by us in Spain are regulated in such a manner, as we need not apprehend any Nation in the World getting the Spanish Trade from us; and this leads us, of course, to the second Head of French Influence mentioned, (viz.) Unequal Impositions; of which more shall be said in the next *MERCATOR*.

In the mean time, as it seems, the Clamorous Party provoke other Pens, tho' they cannot provoke the *MERCATOR* to think them worth any Notice; so the *MERCATOR* cannot deny the following Letter a place in this Paper, because it so well Corrects the Insolence of those, who Triumph, without Victory, over every one, that Opposes them: That this Letter is Genuine, the Writer, tho' yet unknown, offers the *MERCATOR* his Name to be made Publick, if there is occasion of it.

To the Mercator.

'THE Opposers of your Paper, seem to be like the Blacksmith of the West-Country, who was Hang'd for Rebellion, who Comforted himself with this, that he had done something to be Talk'd of: So finding that you are not to be brought by their Insolence and provoking Language to take any Notice of them, they are resolv'd to do something flagrantly Wicked, and remarkably Ridiculous, to make themselves known.

To this purpose they run at all; they deny, that Two and Two makes Four. In spite of the abatement of French Duties by the Treaty, they will have it, that our Woollen Manufactures shall not go into France;



France; and, in spite of high Duties here, they will have it, that French Goods shall flow in upon us here as fast as ever.

To say that Cheapness causes Consumption, or that Dearthness lessens Consumption, is no Argument to these Men; they have Stock enough to run down all that, and a great deal more; nay, they will not allow, that those French, that Buy our Goods now, when they pay 70 per Cent. Custom for them, will Buy any the more of them, when they shall pay but Ten per Cent. *Merry be their Hearts*: They are the boldest Disputers, that ever were met with; they call upon you, to prove, that the French will take our Manufactures after the Treaty; as if proving, that they do take them now, when they pay high Duties, was not sufficient to prove, that they would take them much more, when those high Duties are taken off!

But this is not all; they, who are gone thus far, ought to stick at Nothing; and therefore having never been guilty of but one piece of Modesty in all their Writings, (viz.) *Disowning their Old Scheme*, they have now Repented of that Sin against Nature: And behold, in one of their Papers they are come back to what they were ashamed to do at first, (viz.) to Justify the **OLD SCHEME**.

Thus when Men launch at first into a piece of foul Work, they begin with some little Modesty; but when by Usage and Custom, and especially want of Correction, they grow bold, they then cast off all Shame.

They begin with boasting that the **MERCATOR** acknowledges that *Scheme* to be 40 Years old, and that it deceived the Parliament so long ago; and this it seems, in their sense, justifies the Attempt they lately made to cheat another Parliament with it.

This is good Party-Divinity at this time a day, and is the same thing with this following, (viz.) A piece of false Money was Coin'd 40 Years ago, and therefore I knowing it to be Counterfeit, may put it upon any body for true Silver now, and persuade them to believe it to be good Standard.

They are mighty angry with you for calling any thing done by the Parliament in King Charles II.'s time **WILD**; and to say that a Quotation of theirs is a *wild Preamble of a wild Act of Parliament*, is made Party-Treason in the **MERCATOR**.

Pray, SIR, desire those Gentlemen to look back upon all the Libels and Pamphlets of their own Party for some Years past, and tell us, how many *wild Parliaments*, and worse, they have called the Parliaments of those times! what Stories of their Transactions! what Lists of the Pensioners of those Parliaments have they printed! and how have they branded them with being Betrayers of their Country! and this even the same Parliament, which made that Preamble: But the Parson forgets that he has been a Clerk: For now, when these Parliaments speak on their side, they are the most sacred Things imaginable, and the **MERCATOR** must not touch upon them.

Again, How come Preambles to Acts of Parliament to be such infallible Things in these Mens Eyes, that they must not be called in question, but must be quoted like a Sacred Writ! This is but a late Reformation: We have seen them call a Thing a *wild Preamble to a wild Act of Parliament* since that time; *Vide* the Preamble to the first Occasional Bill, which tho' thrown out indeed by the Lords, yet pass'd the Commons; thus, *Whereas Persecution is contrary to the Principles, &c.* And yet it was said by these very Men, that it was a Persecuting Bill: Did not they think this a **WILD Preamble**?

But to go back to the Words *Wild Act of Parliament*, which we now speak of: We have not been such Strangers to *Wild Acts of Parliament*, that the Men should make so much Noise of it; and yet no Reflection upon the Authority of Parliament neither; for tho' Parliaments are to be submitted to, they are not infallible, neither do they pretend to be so: For Example, Was it not a **WILD ACT**, in the Sense we are

upon, which not only Prohibited the French Goods at that time, but caused them to be burnt and staved when seized on?

Was it not a **WILD ACT** of Parliament, in the same Sense, that Prohibited the Importation of Bone-lace from Flanders, and made the Flemings prohibit all our Woollen Manufacture till it was Repealed again?

But the Crime here is, it seems, that the **MERCATOR** has said, that *that Parliament was Cheated by the OLD SCHEME*; and they thank you for owning it, for that nothing will Expose it, they say, whereas before they declin'd it.

But you ought to thank them rather, for discovering their Principles in this Case; (viz.) That while a Cheat wanted Credit they threw it by; but if it has been a successful Cheat, it is for their purpose: if it has had such good speed as to delude a Parliament, they will embrace it; tho' wise Men say, a Cheat is not the less so for its being successful: But, say these Men, no body contradicted the *Scheme* then, and therefore it must be right now. *Very fine!* A Highway-man Robb'd privately, was never detected for 40 Years, and pass'd all that while for an honest Man; therefore he must not be Hang'd, when he is Taken: But Justice says the contrary, (viz.) The rather shall he be Hang'd, now he is discover'd.

Well, these bold brave Fellows have resolv'd, they will enter the Lists with you in Defence of the **OLD SCHEME**: As they say in the Court, *Send them a good Deliverance!* But since you are going on with a useful Discourse on the Spanish and Portugal Trade, from which you ought not to be diverted, be pleas'd to give me leave, as a Second to you, to take up these bold Challengers; and allow me but a Stage of 10 Lines in your Paper, by way of Postscript, and I will undertake to answer all they can say for that Old Scheme, and make them ashamed of it a second time, or make them a Shame to all the World; for I will prove That *Scheme*, however it run for Current 40 Years, and *Deceived even the Elect*, (viz.) the Parliament, was the greatest, the errantest Cheat that ever was put upon a Nation, and can be outdone by nothing, but by the shameless Attempt of offering it again, to Deceive the Nation a second time with it.

In order to this, I charge that *Scheme* first with a Fraud in its Title, (viz.) calling it self *A Scheme of the Trade, as it is at present carried on between England and France*. Those are the Words of the Title.

Whereas, in the first place, all our Plantation Goods Imported into England, and Exported into France by Certificate, are omitted in it.

This is first making the Title lye to the Nation, and then making the Scheme lye to the Title. Let them justify this, and they shall hear farther.

Your Humble Servant,

Decemb. 4. 1713.

Backstroke.

From the CUSTOM-HOUSE.

Exported to France in Three Days, Dec. 3, 4, 5.

7 Fod. 1 C. Lead
9 Ton Block Tin
42 l. Pewter
1000 yds Flannel
6 Stuffs
2 Double Eays
* 20 doz. Calf-Skins
* 20 doz. Hofs
47 Ton Logwood
3256 l. Pepper
38499 l. Virginia Tobacco
4 Ton 13 C. Corrants
7 Ton Raisins
8 Ton 3 C. Rice



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